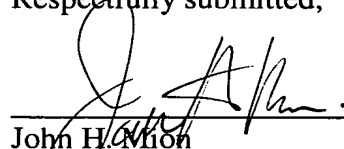


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) Div. of 10/018,366

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 10, 2003